

**Fact Sheet
May 2003**

You Are Invited To Join the Former Fort Ord Community Advisory Group



Department of Toxic Substances Control

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP (CAG) FOR THE FORMER FORT ORD?

DTSC is one of six Boards and Departments within the California Environmental Protection Agency. The Department's mission is to restore, protect and enhance the environment, to ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality, by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.

The Department of Toxic Substances (DTSC) is assisting the communities impacted by the Former Fort Ord site to develop a CAG. This fact sheet will provide you information on what is a CAG, how to develop a CAG, how to become a member of the CAG and how the CAG participates in the decision-making process.

The CAG is a way for people to actively participate in the decision-making process and provide advice on cleanup activities. CAG members and community members who attend the public CAG meetings on a regular basis can learn more about the site, receive up-to-date information and can discuss their concerns with DTSC and others involved in the cleanup and other environmental programs.



A CAG is made up of representatives of diverse community members with various interests. Its purpose is to provide a public forum for the community. A CAG can assist those making decisions about clean up that result in better decisions on how to clean up a site. It offers a unique opportunity to hear and seriously consider community preferences for site cleanup and remediation. However, the existence of a CAG does not eliminate the need to keep the community informed about plans and decisions throughout the clean up process.

HOW DO WE CREATE A CAG AT THE FORMER FORT ORD?

A CAG can be established when DTSC receives a petition with fifty or more signatures from members of the community. A CAG may be formed at any point in the environmental cleanup process. DTSC received a petition requesting assistance to establish a CAG at the Former Fort Ord. DTSC is assisting the petitioner in many different ways, including announcements in the Monterey County local papers, fact sheets and having personal contact with community groups and individuals.

State of California



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Many people may be interested in the CAG but only a few can devote the time necessary to be members. CAG members must attend regularly scheduled meetings and share information with the communities they represent. Not everyone can devote the time to be a member of the CAG, but every citizen has an important role to play and can support the CAG and its activities. All CAG meetings are open to the public.

DTSC will work with the petitioners to create a Screening Panel who will review all applications received for membership on the CAG. It is the responsibility of the Screening Panel to select members in a fair and open manner. **All applications must be filed no later than May 30, 2003, for consideration on the Former Fort Ord CAG.** The optimum number of CAG members should be 10-15 individuals but no smaller than necessary to adequately reflect diversity of the community interest around the Former Fort Ord site.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE CAG IS DEVELOPED?

CAG members are trained to enable them to perform their duties. DTSC will work with others to provide training, prepare briefing material, workshops and schedule site tours for new CAG members. Technical support staff from the state, federal and local agencies that have involvement with the site will be asked to attend the training to provide information in their areas of expertise.

The CAG will develop a mission statement describing their specific purpose, scope, goals and objectives. The CAG will also develop a set of procedures to guide day-to-day operations.

The meetings are announced publicly (via display ads in newspapers, flyers, ect.) well enough in advance to encourage maximum participation of CAG and community members. CAG meetings vary depending on the needs of the CAG. A basic meeting format might include an update of site status by the projects technical staff; discussion of current issues; a question/answer session that includes community participation; review of "action items," and discussion of next meetings agenda.



HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FORMER FORT ORD CAG?

For more information about the Former Fort Ord CAG and/or to request an application, please contact:

**Kim Rhodes
Public Participation Specialist
(916) 255-3651**

Also, you are welcome to send an e-mail message to

**Krhodes1@dtsc.ca.gov or
visit DTSC's Web site at
www.dtsc.ca.gov.**

Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals

TDD users can obtain additional information by using the California State Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 to reach Kim Rhodes at (916) 255-3651.